

055

Ref: U-10,907/DS-2D

1 March 1971

Kenneth L. Fry
Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy Director for Support
Defense Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20301

Stop 103

Dear Col. Fry:

Your inquiry dated 28 January 1971 and correspondence from Mr. Melden E. Smith, Jr. are returned since the overall responsibility for the proper security of all files of the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey were transferred from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Defense Intelligence Agency effective 15 August 1966. A copy of that agreement is attached for your convenience.

This office has coordinated with interested individuals in this Agency and finds we have no continuing interest in the subject records. The request posed by Mr. Smith appears to be within the purview of your Agency and is returned for your consideration and disposition.

STATINTL

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
CIA Records Administration Officer

Attachments:

Transfer Agreement 1 Aug 66
Mr. Smith letter 3 Nov 70
Col. Fry letter 22 Dec 70
Col. Fry letter 28 Jan. 71
Col. Fry letter to CIA 28 Jan 71
DDS/SSS/RAB/ [Redacted] dd (1 Mar. 71)

Mr. Smith letter 2 Jan 71

STATINTL

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT



STATINTL

12 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Records Administration Officer
SUBJECT : U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey Records
REFERENCE : Your Memorandum dated 4 February 1971,
Same Subject

This office has no continuing interest in subject records
that are housed at the National Archives. It appears to be
strictly a DIA matter.

STATINTL

A large black rectangular redaction mark covering a signature.
Executive Secretary

4 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Strategic Services Unit
SUBJECT : Reference Inquiry from DIA for Melden E. Smith Jr.

1. In the attached correspondence the Director for Support in Defense Intelligence Agency has informed Mr. Melden E. Smith Jr. that the files he wishes to have a microfilm copy of are classified by the British Air Ministry and two U. S. Government Agencies. Mr. Smith has requested that the declassification request be pursued further.

2. An agreement dated 1 August 1966 transferred custody of the United States Strategic Bombing Records to DIA. You may have continued interest in this material or may have terminated OSS interest at that transfer. Please let me have your position on a response for this requestor.

STATINTL

CIA Records Administration Officer

Attachment:
As Stated

4 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Strategic Services Unit ID -4124, Hqrs.
SUBJECT : Reference Inquiry from DIA for Melden E. Smith Jr.

1. In the attached correspondence the Director for Support in Defense Intelligence Agency has informed Mr. Melden E. Smith Jr. that the files he wishes to have a microfilm copy of are classified by the British Air Ministry and two U. S. Government Agencies. Mr. Smith has requested that the declassification request be pursued further.
2. An agreement dated 1 August 1966 transferred custody of the United States Strategic Bombing Records to DIA. You may have continued interest in this material or may have terminated OSS interest at that transfer. Please let me have your position on a response for this requestor.

STATINTL

[REDACTED]

CIA Records Administration Officer

Attachment:
As stated

DDS/SSS/RAB/ [REDACTED] d (4 Feb. 71)

LP

copy of memo
1- RAB < SSS Con. File.
1- Chancery

92 FEB 1971

Approved For Release 2001/08/30 : CIA-RDP74-00390R000200040015-6
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



U-10,907/DS-2D

28 JAN 1971

SUBJECT: Inquiry from Mr. Melden E. Smith, Jr.

TO: Records Administration Officer

[REDACTED]
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

- STATINTL
1. We are requesting your comments on the enclosed correspondence from Mr. Melden E. Smith, Jr.
 2. The files requested by Mr. Smith contain documents which were originated and security classified by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), London. According to Mr. John Taylor of the National Archives and Record Service (NARS), your agency has the authority in declassifying these documents.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

RUTH L. FRY
Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy Director for Support

- 2 Enclosures
1. Cy of Ltr, 3 Nov 70,
Melden E. Smith, Jr.,
w/DIA reply
 2. Cy of Ltr, 2 Jan 71,
Melden E. Smith, Jr.,
w/DIA interim reply

137 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

January 2, 1971

Colonel Kenneth L. Fry, USAF
Acting Deputy Director for Support
Defense Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Colonel Fry:

I was happy to receive your reply to my inquiry of 3 November just before Christmas, because I had become convinced that this inquiry had somehow become lost in the maze down there.

Should we dismiss my request to see certain USSBS documents simply because they originated with the Air Ministry? Or could you people get in touch with the British and pass on my request for a selective declassification action? After all these records pertain to an event over twenty-five years ago, and if you were to contact the proper British clearing authority they just might reply favorably.

Would you please pursue this matter further and reply reasonably soon?

The documents in question, again, are:

Under Section 4 (European Target Intelligence) and further broken down to 3a beginning on page 223, (Damage Assessment photo intelligence reports of European targets filed alphabetically, etc.) #746 (on page 229) Dresden, Germany (three envelopes).

In the meantime I shall write to Mr. L. A. Jackets, Air Historical Branch, London, and inform him of my desires in this matter.

Sincerely,

Melden E. Smith Jr.
Melden E. Smith, Jr.



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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

U-389/DS

28 JAN 1971

Mr. Melden E. Smith, Jr.
137 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference is made to your follow-up letter of 2 January 1971, on the subject of U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey Records.

We have again reviewed the records in question at the National Archives. A page-by-page examination revealed that as previously stated, a large number of these records are proprietary to Her Majesty's Government. Additionally, however, we found that intermingled with those records in the bound documents concerned are documents which are proprietary to another foreign government and two U.S. Federal Agencies.

We regret our inability to furnish you with a final position on your request at this time. As you can appreciate, the Defense Intelligence Agency has no cognizance over the USSBS Records and no authority to either act on or recommend their release. Although we have been informed that previous requests for access to these records have not been favorably considered, we are referring your request through appropriate channels to obtain decisions thereon from the Agencies concerned. We will keep you informed of any progress in this matter.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

KENNETH L. FRY
Colonel, USAF
Acting Deputy Director for Support

137 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
November 3, 1970

Colonel Bert Ezell
Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration
Defense Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Ezell:

I am currently working on a doctoral manuscript in history on a reconsideration of the bombing of Dresden, Germany during World War II.

I would like to have the following portion of the USSBS Study declassified so that Mr. John Taylor of the Modern Military Records Division could have it microfilmed and forwarded to me. The selection is;

Under Section 4 (European Target Intelligence) and further broken down to 3a beginning on page 223, (Damage Assessment photo intelligence reports of European targets filed alphabetically, etc.) #746 (on page 229) Dresden, Germany (3 envelopes).

Mr. Taylor advised me to contact you with this request. I have a research clearance from the Office of Air Force History for my undertaking and one also from the State Department.

Sincerely yours,

Melden E. Smith, Jr.

30 Nov 70

Melden E. Smith, Jr.

(See also W/ Mr. Taylor NARS.)

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C-10, 17, 18-21)

FILE DESIGNATION

DS-2D/V. Stephanson/44176/mc/4Dec70

22 DEC 1970

U-5036/DS-2D

Mr. Melden E. Smith, Jr.
137 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference is made to your letter, 3 November 1970, addressed to Colonial Bert Ezell (now retired), requesting access to certain United States Strategic Bombing Survey (USSBS) records.

Upon review it has been determined that these particular documents were originated and security classified by the British Government. Declassification of classified information furnished to the United States by a foreign government lies solely with that foreign government, therefore, authorization for access to the documents requested cannot be granted.

We are sorry we have not been able to accommodate your request.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

KENNETH L. FRY
Colonel, USAF
Acting Director, Space

Coordination
Stayback
DS-2
DS-X

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